

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 OMB-01 GAC-01 INRE-00 /128 W

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P R 021425 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6320

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

. AMEMBASSY LONDON 1419

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION USUN

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BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR KU IZ

SUBJ: KUWAIT- IRAQ BORDER CLASH

REF: KUWAIT 972

SUMMARY: KUWAIT- IRAQ BORDER SITUATION VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

MEDIATORS HAVE COME AND GONE WITHOUT IMPROVING SITUATION. IRAQI

DELEGATION TO DISCUSS BORDER STILL EXPECTED ABOUT APRIL 8. END

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SUMMARY

1. TO BEST OF OUR INFORMATION MILITARY SITUATION ON KUWAITI- IRAQI BORDER REMAINS UNCHANGED, ALTHOUGH BEIRUT REPORT OF MARCH 28 STATED THAT IRAQI FORCES HAD EXPANDED THEIR OCCUPATION AREA IN NORTHERN KUWAIT AMIDST REPORTS OF SAUDI ARABIAN TROOP BUILD- UP ALONG KUWAIT' S SOUTHERN BORDER.

2. SINCE REPORT REFTEL THREE NEW MEDIATORS HAVE APPEARED ON SCENE. THEY WERE SOUTH YEMEN INFORMATION MINISTER ABDULLA AL- KHAMERI, PALESTINIAN LEADER YEASER ARAFAT, AND EGYPTIAN FONMIN AZYYAT. AFTER INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS IN KUWAIT ON AMRCH 29 AND 30 ARAFAT RETURNED TO BAGHDAD, BUT HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO KUWAIT SHORTLY. IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMIR, FONMIN, AND MINISTER OF INTEROR AND DEFENSE, ARAFAT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KHALID AL- HASSAN, A PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER.

3. EGYPTIAN FONMIN AZYYAT ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH AMIR, CROWN PRINCE/ PRIME MINISTER AND FNONMIN. AT THE END OF HIS 2- DAY VIST TO KUWAIT ON APRIL 1 ZAYYAT SAID THAT IRAQI AUTHORITIES HAD ASSURED HIM THEIR TROOPS HAD EVACUATED KUWAIT POST OF AL- SAMITA. HE ADDED, " EVEN IF THE IRAQIS HAVE NOT DONE THIS SO FAR, THEIR ASSURANCE TO ME WAS AN INDICATION THAT THEY AGREED SUCH EVACUATION WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO SETTLE THE CURRENT BORDER CRISIS."

4. MINISTER OF STATE ABDUL AZIZ HUSEEIN, TOLD REPORTERS APRIL 1 THAT FROM JUWAITI POINT OF VIEW " THERE HAS TO BE AN AGREED BASIS FOR THE TALKS TO BE HELD" WITH IRAQIS, AND THAT ATTEMPTS WERE BEING MADE PRESENTLY TO ARRIVE AT CERTAIN PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE BASED. MR. HUSSEIN ADDED, " WE HAVE EXPLAINED OUR POSITION IN VERY CLEAR TERMS TO ALL OUR BROTHERS AND WE HOPE THE CRISIS WILL BE SOLVED WITHOUT GOING TO THE ARAB LEAGUE."

5. FONMIN, SHAIKH SABAH AL- AHMAD, DENIED TO REPORTERS THAT ANY SAUDI TROOPS (REPORTEDLY 15 TO 20,000) HAVE ENTERED INTO KUWAIT. THESE REPORTS ARE TOTALLY GROUNDLESS, HE SAID. SHAIKH SABAH ALSO SAID THAT ARAB LEADERS WERE OPTIMISTIC OF A SOLUTION FOR THE BORDER DISPUTE WITH IRAQ AND ADDED, " WE CANNOT BUT SHARE THEIR OPTIMISM." SHAIKH SABAH WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE WASHINGTON POST THAT KUWAITI FORCES WOULD NOT FIGHT IRAQI TROOPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENTLY BUT WOULD RESIST ANY ATTEMPT BY IRAQ TO PENETRATE

KUWAIT TERRITORY FURTHER.

6. IRAQI DELEGATION TO DISCUSS BORDER SITUATION IS STILL EXPECTED
HERE EARLY NEXT WEEK, ACCORDING TO MINISTER OF STATE HUSSEIN.

7. COMMENT: SITUATION REMAINS GENERALLY UNCHANGED.
IRAQIS HAVE NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE AND MEDIATORS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO
MAKE ANY PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLUTION OF BORDER DISPUTE.

DECON 5/1/75

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